

26 October 1973

Mr. F. Garner Ranney
8 West Madison Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Dear Mr. Ranney:

I remember well meeting you at the Dulles house and I am most interested in the problems set forth in your letter of October 17th, 1973. I am not by any means an expert in this field and I wish I had a little more time. I am leaving town for two weeks. I have done some work on the matter and thought I would give you my preliminary views and if there is anything you would like to follow up on when I get back the middle of November, I would be only too pleased to spend more time on the matter.

First, I must say I completely agree with your approach to the proper handling of the Dulles papers. There is no question that the period of time and the method of handling access posed by you are completely satisfactory to the Agency and I think are also appropriate from the point of view of Mrs. Dulles and the public interest.


As a practical matter, I wonder if the committee system as proposed is not somewhat overcumbersome. I should think three members would be ample for the purpose which would keep it at the minimum established in the draft. I also raise the question of whether it would not be useful to have the Princeton librarian as ex officio chairman or member of the committee so that there will always be someone available. Obviously there will be many changes over a period of 25 years. You may wish to talk to the librarian about this and if he thinks the idea has merit he could also provide for the recording of committee actions.

So far as I have been able to ascertain agreements of this sort are enforceable although in the temper of the times it is possible that the restrictions could be challenged. My only worry would be

about documents already delivered to Princeton, but I would argue that these were merely placed in the University's custody and this proposed agreement would be the formal transfer of title which, of course, would be the consideration for the University's undertakings in the agreement. For this reason, I would prefer the word "title" to "ownership" in the sixth line after the word "WITNESSETH" on page 1. It probably is not important but it seems to me the more usual formal phraseology. As a nit pick, I would suggest adding the word "of" after "preservation" in the second line of that paragraph.

I am not sure I have been too helpful herein, but if there is anything you would like to pursue further please drop me a line and I will get in touch with you as soon as I get back. In any case, I would be most interested to have a copy of what you finally work out.

Sincerely,




Lawrence R. Houston

cc: Mrs. Allen W. Dulles
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Washington, D. C. 22007

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